

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Darrell H. Carney, Roger S. Crowther, David J. Simmons, Jinping Yang and
William R. Redin

Continuation Application of

Application No.: 09/909,122

Filed: July 19, 2001

For: Stimulation of Bone Growth with Thrombin Peptide Derivatives

Date: 1-16-02

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REMARKS

Box PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The above-captioned application is a continuation of application number 09/909,122 filed on July 19, 2001 to which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §120.

The related applications paragraph has been revised to include the parent application.

The parent application of this continuation application incorporates by reference the entire contents of United States Patent Nos. 5,500,412 and 5,352,664 (see specification of 09/909,122 at page 5, line 4).

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In this continuation application, the specification has been amended to include a two-paragraph portion of the material previously incorporated by reference from those patents. The two-paragraph portion is identically recited in both patents and is contained at column 6, lines 35-48 of United States Patent No. 5,500,412 and at column 6, lines 54-68, continuing to column 7, lines 1-2 of United States Patent No. 5,352,664.

The two paragraphs were added to the specification of this continuation application at page 6, lines 18-28, and are directed to, for example, physiologically functional equivalents of thrombin derivatives which encompass modifications such as amidation of the carboxyl terminus. The term "thrombin derivatives", utilized in United States Patent Nos. 5,500,412 and 5,352,664 has been further clarified in this application to be "thrombin peptide derivatives" for consistency. The parent application additionally teaches specific amino acid sequences of thrombin derivatives, such as SEQ ID NO.: 5 (page 7, lines 8-10).

The present continuation application has been further amended at page 3, line 14 and at page 8, lines 1-3, to place the teachings directed to the physiologically functional equivalents of thrombin derivatives as described in the preceding paragraph in additional locations in the continuation application. The purpose of these amendments is to more readily convey this aspect of the invention to the public. Further to that end, the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.: 5, the thrombin derivative, has been additionally represented as a sequence with an amide at the C-terminus in SEQ ID NO.: 6, a physiologically functional equivalent of a thrombin derivative.

The subject matter of Claims 13-15, 38-40 and 44-46 is first presented in this continuation application, but is fully supported in both the parent and this application. Support can be found at least in the two paragraphs added from United States Patent Nos. 5,352,664 and 5,500,412 and in the parent application at page 7, lines 8-10. The claims in this application have been renumbered due to the addition of the new claims, and claim dependencies were also suitably renumbered as necessary.

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No new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification or by the new claims. Therefore, entry of this application as a continuation of the parent application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By *Linda M. Chinn*
Linda M. Chinn
Registration No. 31,240
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

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